

be remembered, for instance, that many plants cultivated only in an unimproved form in this country have been subjected in Europe to long and careful selection, by which improved strains have been developed. Thus, Mr. Swingle found that the American cottonwood has become one of the most important forest trees of France, where the selected varieties are always grown from cuttings.

Some applicants have sent in requests for long lists of seeds. While there is no desire to limit the number which properly equipped experimenters may receive, our correspondents are requested to bear in mind that the seeds and plants listed in these inventories are not a part of the Congressional seed distribution; they are imported for the State experiment stations and for such private experimenters as are known to be fully capable of growing them with the best possible results. As a rule they are not secured in amounts sufficient for general distribution, and many have already been distributed.

It is requested that in all cases our numbers be recorded by the experimenter for use in reporting the results and also for permanent reference. Our report blanks will bear numbers corresponding to those of the inventory, so that the reports will enable us to bring together for later transmission to our correspondents the results secured in all parts of the country.

O. F. COOK,

Special Agent in charge of Seed and Plant Introduction.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 3, 1899.

INVENTORY.

1901. MUSA ROSACEA.

Banana.

From France. Received through Mr. W. T. Swingle, December, 1898. (2 packages.)

An ornamental banana, with medium-sized leaves, at first violet underneath, afterwards glaucous-green. The plants are from 3 to 12 feet high. It does not bear edible fruit. Introduced into Europe from Mauritius in 1805. As vigorous and hardy as *M. paradisiaca*; is called *M. discolor* by gardeners. Inflorescence straight, with beautiful rose-colored deciduous spathes; flowers orange-yellow.

1902. ASPARAGUS MEDEOLOIDES.

Asparagus.

From France. Received through Mr. W. T. Swingle, December, 1898. (5 packages.)

An ornamental evergreen climber from the Cape, grown in cold house; 5 to 6 feet high. False leaves cordate ovate $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide; flowers fragrant; should be tried in the open in Florida and California.

1903. PASSIFLORA SICYOIDES (?).

Passion flower.

From France. Received through Mr. W. T. Swingle, December, 1898. (2 packages.)

A very beautiful Mexican vine, with fine amethyst flowers produced in profusion; cold-house plant; should be tried in the South. (*P. acerifolia* Hort.)